



No. 258

# THE SECRET OF THE TALKING BIRD



A FOLKTALE FROM KARNATAKA



There are many who love to tell a story and many more who love to listen to one. And each time a story is retold, it acquires a new colour and a fresh dimension.

The grandmother who heard a story as a little girl from her grandmother, tells the same story to her grandchild but with a few embellishments of her own. The traveller from a distant land who happens to hear a story in the course of his travels, later tells it to his own people, modifying it to make it more dramatic or more acceptable to his audience. That is how stories which had first been told centuries ago have been kept alive and why we find recurring themes in the tales told in different regions separated by hundreds of miles.

This Amar Chitra Katha retells the folktale MATANADUVA GILI MATTU BEDARA HUDUGA, originally narrated in Kannada by Dr. Chandrashekar Kambar

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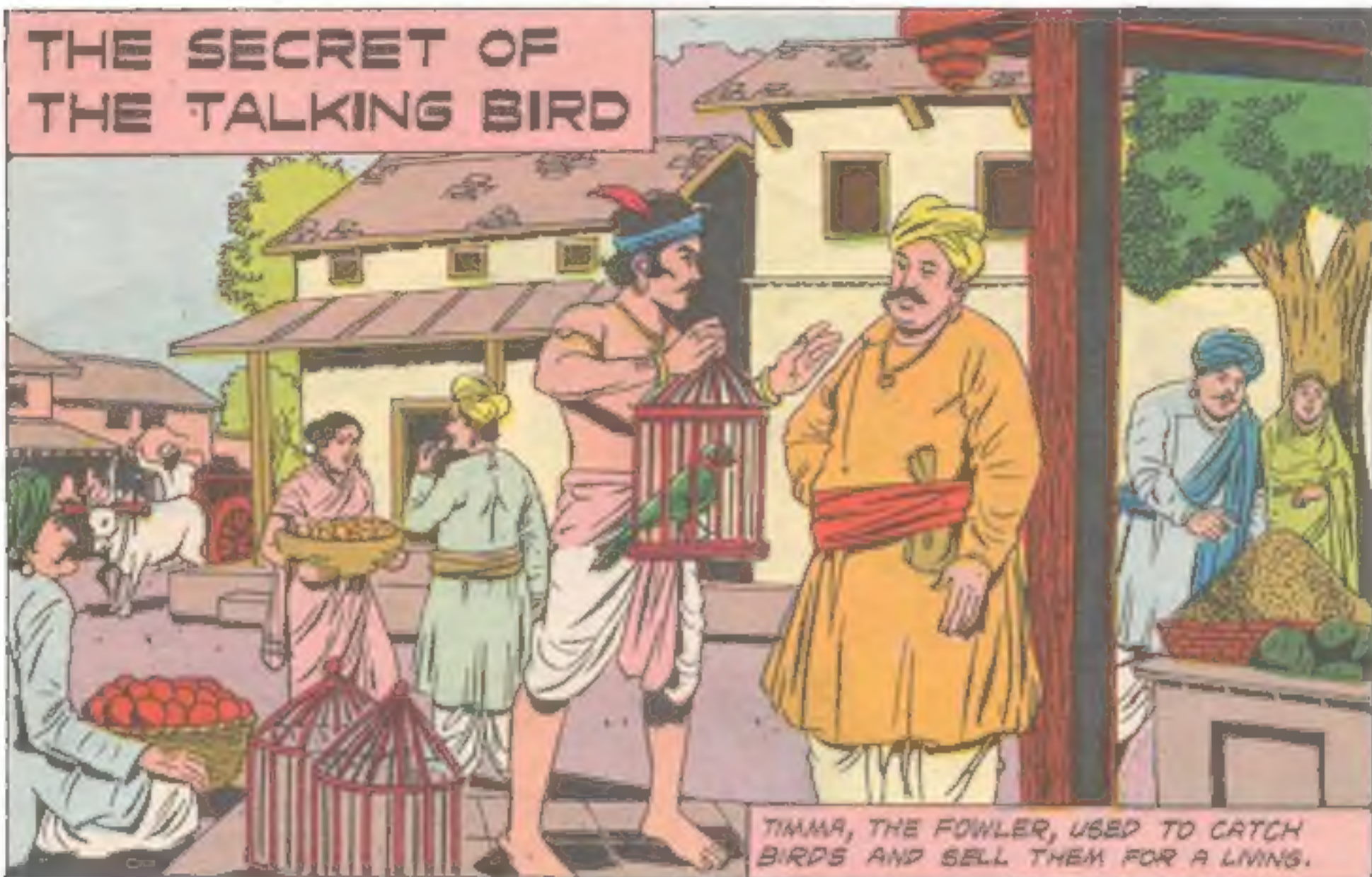
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# THE SECRET OF THE TALKING BIRD



TIMMA, THE FOWLER, USED TO CATCH BIRDS AND SELL THEM FOR A LIVING.

ONE EVENING—



A  
PARROT!  
IT'S MY  
LUCKY  
DAY!

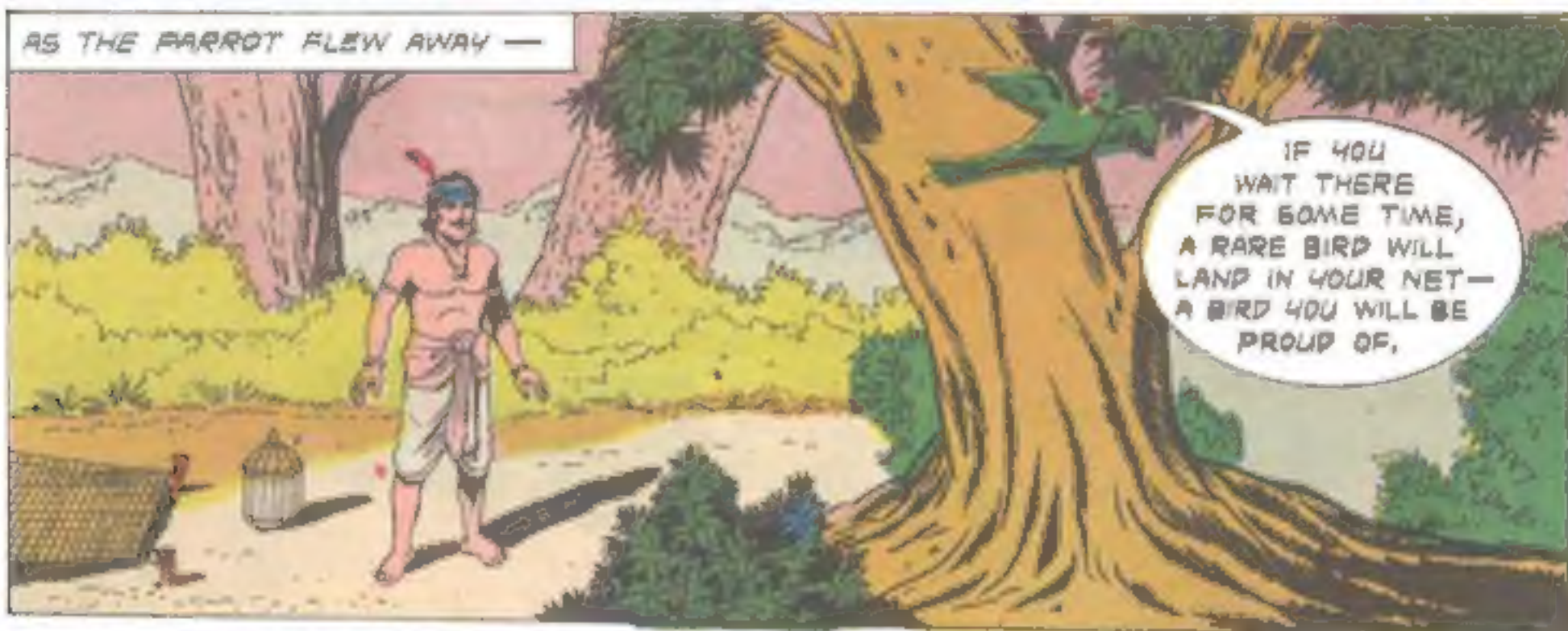
WHEN TIMMA WAS ABOUT TO TRANSFER THE PARROT TO THE CAGE—



LET  
ME GO, MY  
FRIEND.

IT CAN  
TALK!









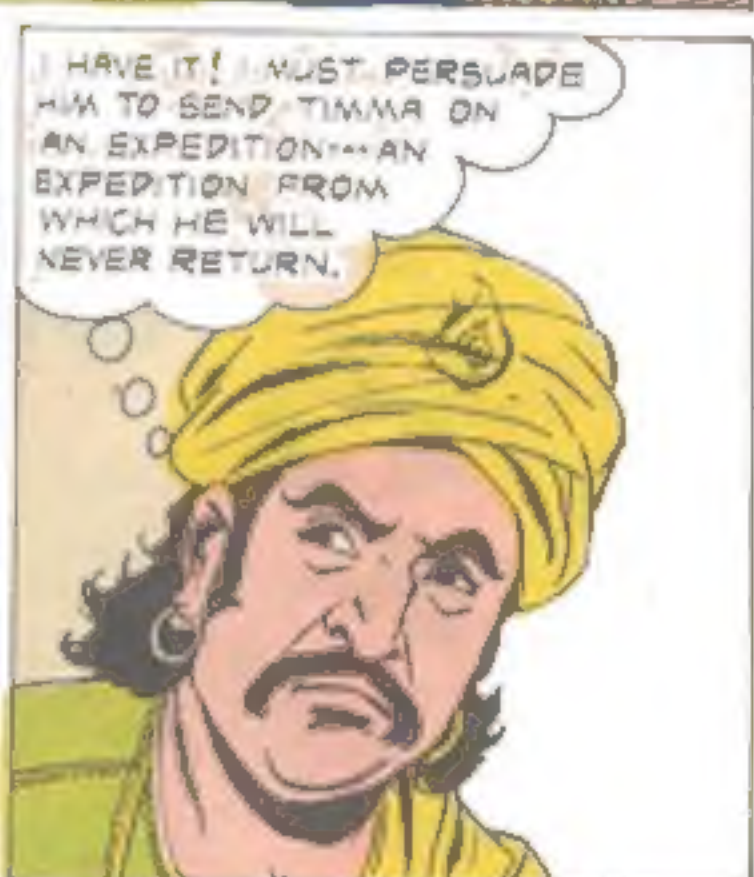
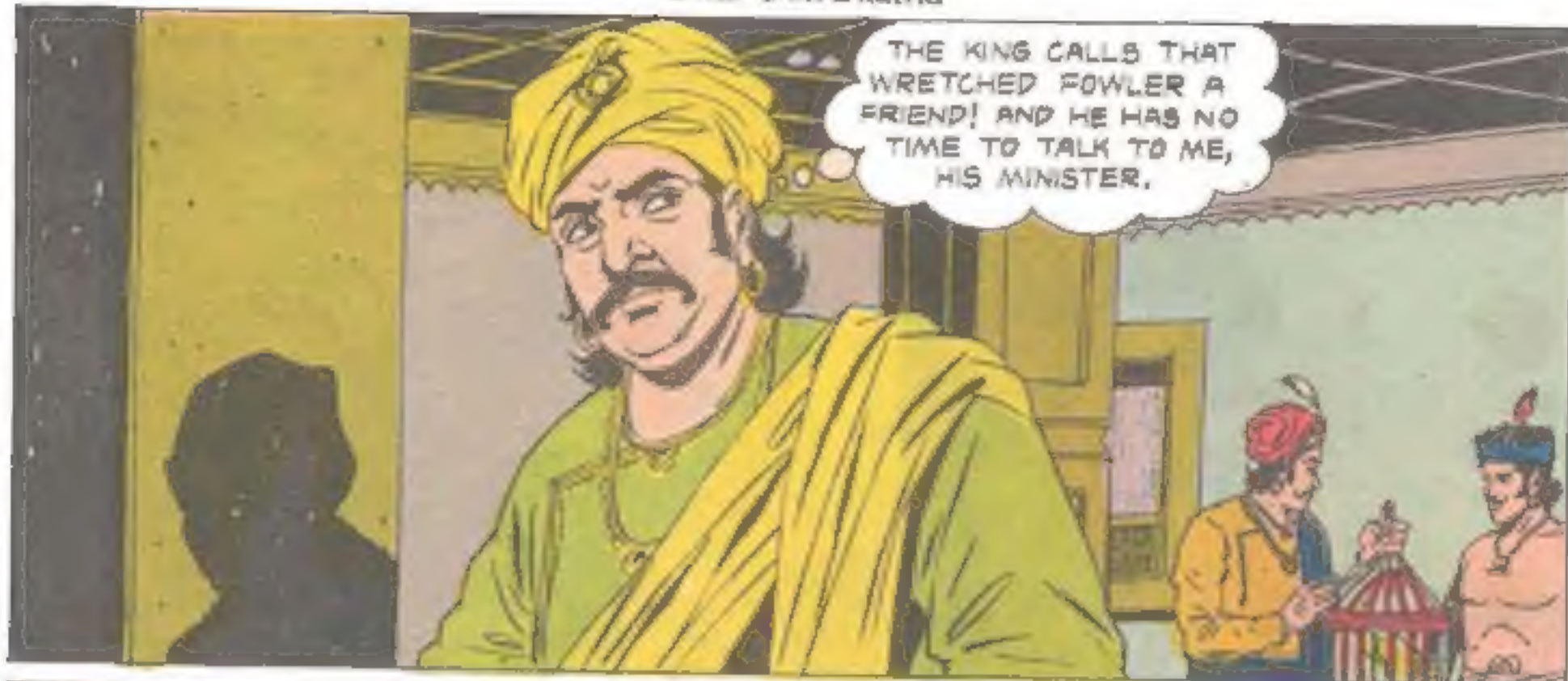








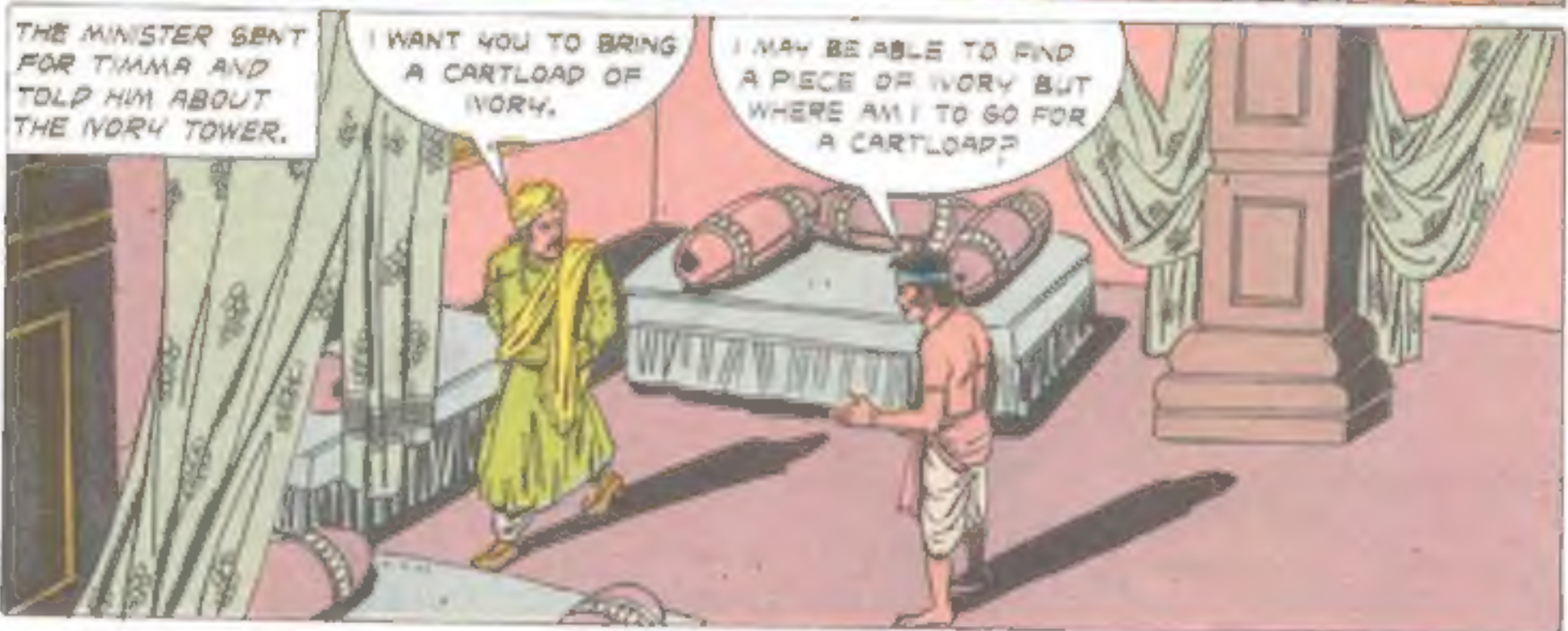














SO POOR TAMMA WENT TO THE FOREST IN SEARCH OF IVORY.

TO GET THE IVORY, I'LL HAVE TO CAPTURE ELEPHANTS. BUT HOW DOES ONE TRAP ELEPHANTS? I ONLY KNOW HOW TO TRAP BIRDS.

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING SO WORRIED, FRIEND?

?

YOU!

YES, YOUR OLD FRIEND. IS THERE ANYTHING I COULD DO FOR YOU?

TAMMA TOLD THE BIRD ALL ABOUT THE TOWER OF IVORY.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND ALL THE IVORY THE KING WANTS AND THE KING WILL PUT ME TO DEATH.

DON'T DESPAIR, MY FRIEND.

GO EASTWARDS. YOU WILL COME ACROSS A FOREST. WALK THROUGH TILL YOU REACH A TANK. ALL THE ELEPHANTS OF THE FOREST COME THERE TO DRINK WATER.



SPEAK TO THE KING  
ELEPHANT. HE WILL  
HELP YOU.



TIMMA SET OUT EASTWARDS.



TOWARDS NOON HE CAME UPON THE TRAIL.  
HE COULD SEE THE ELEPHANTS  
FROlickING IN THE WATER



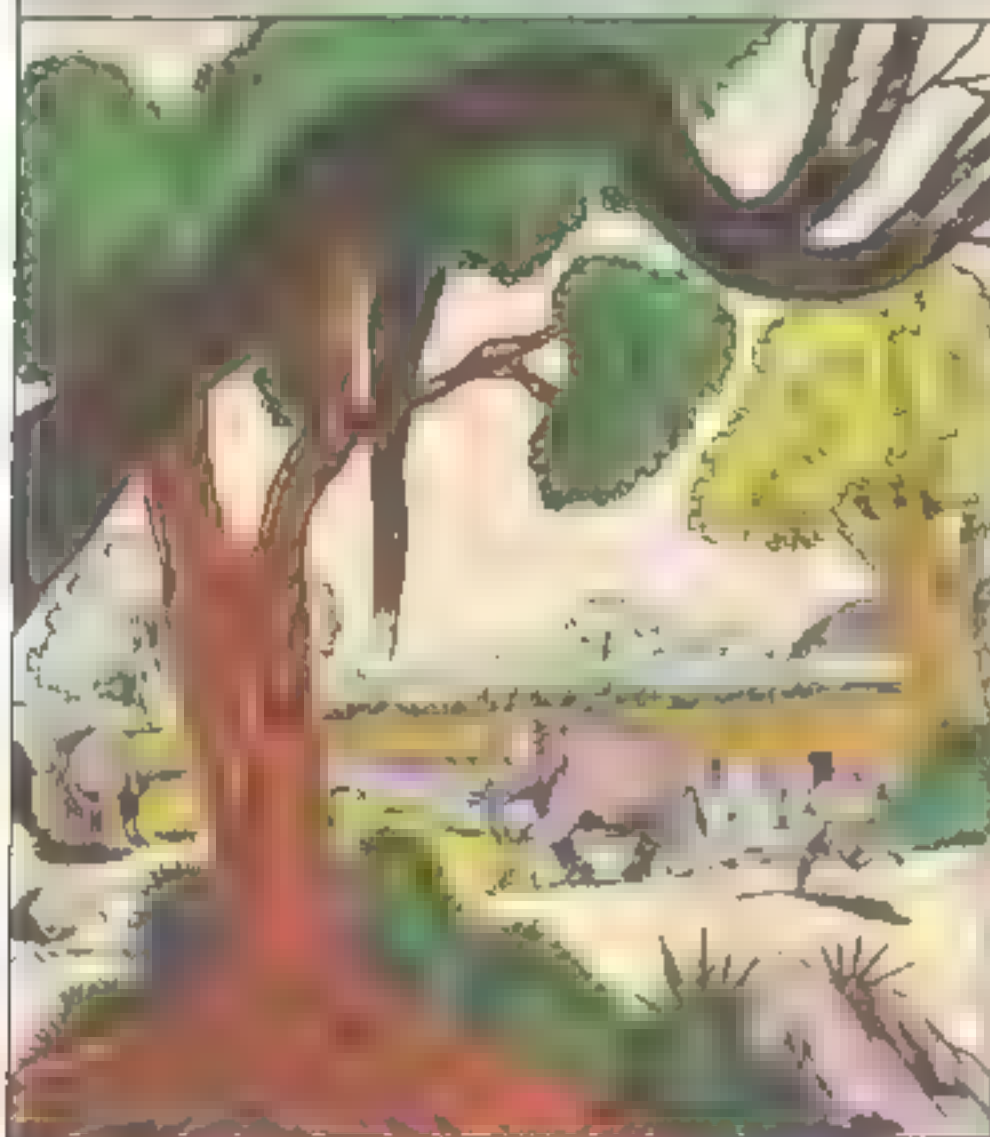
IN THE EVENING AS THE ELEPHANTS LEFT THE TRAIL —

THAT OLD ONE  
MUST BE THE  
KING

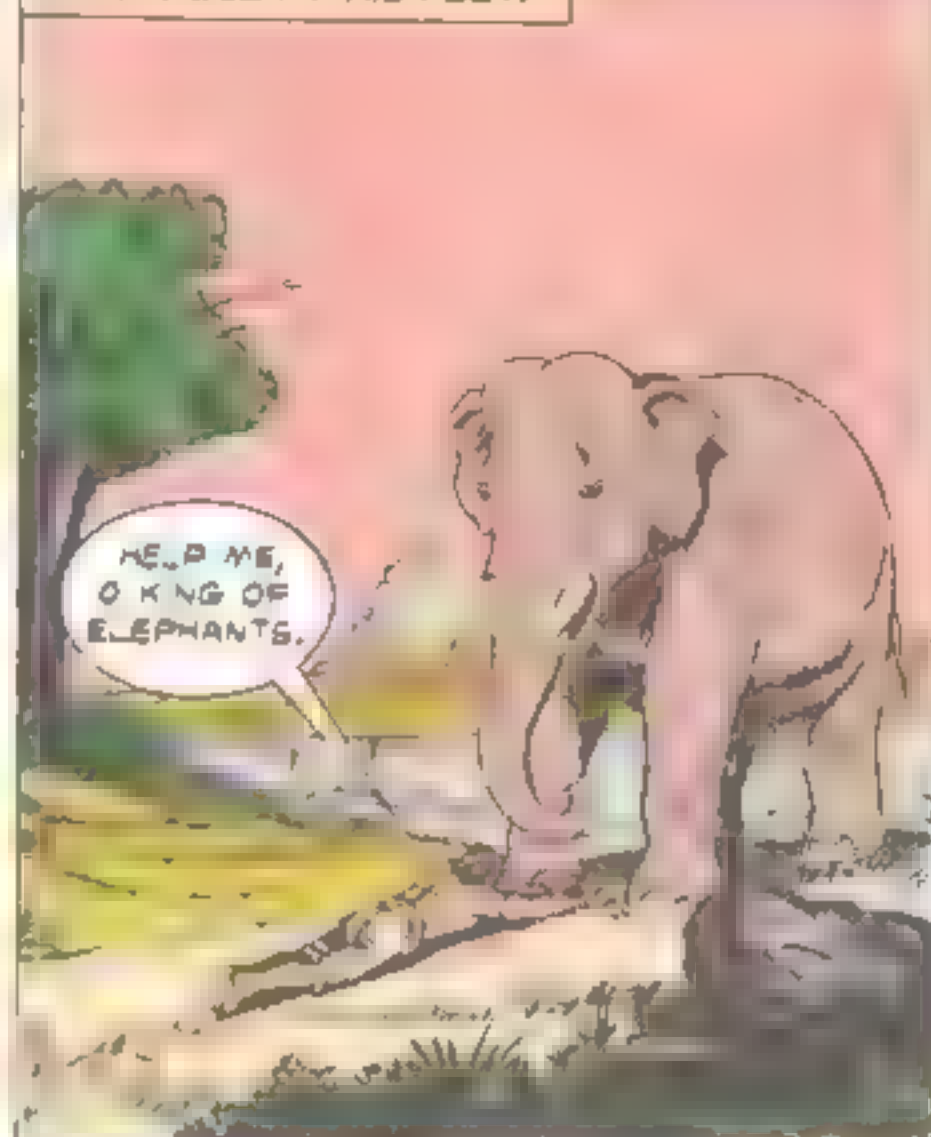




TIMMA RAN UP TO THE OLD ELEPHANT...



...AND FELL AT HIS FEET.



HELP ME,  
O KING OF  
ELEPHANTS.

STAND UP, CHILD.  
WHO ARE YOU?  
WHAT DO YOU  
WANT?

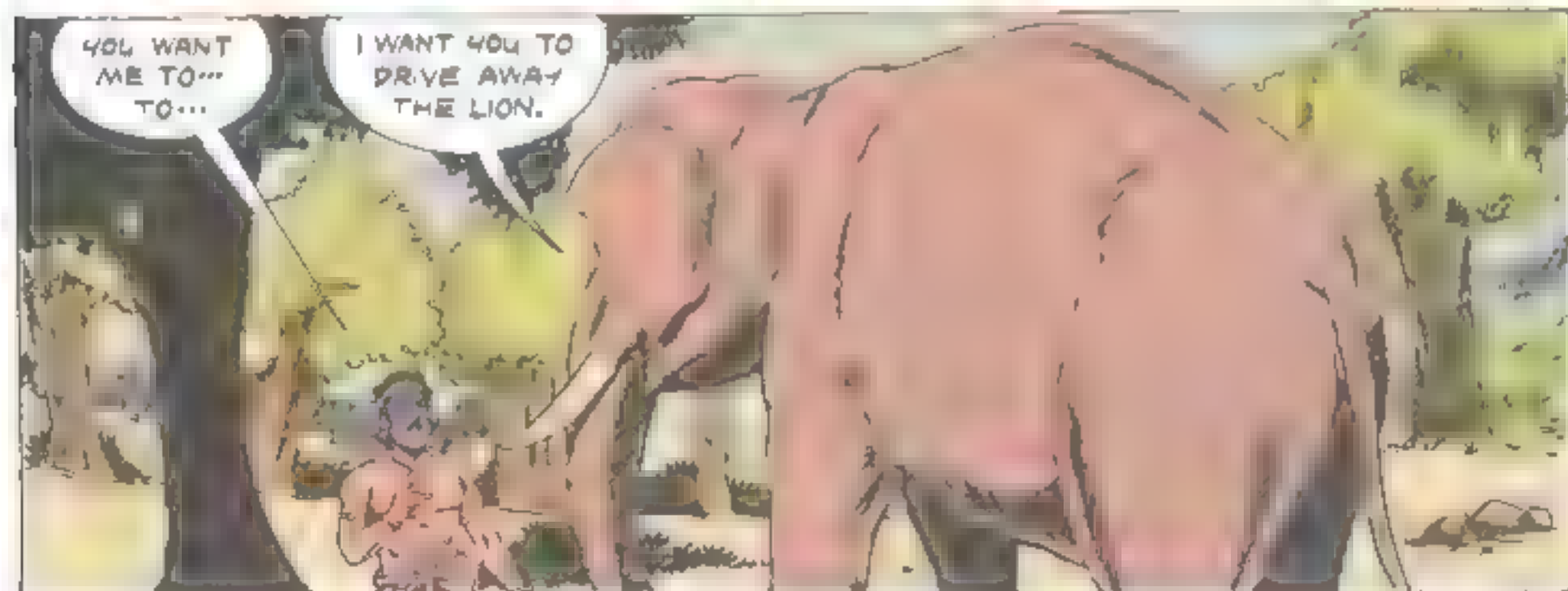


WHEN TIMMA TOLD HIS STORY—

I UNDERSTAND.  
YOU NEED MY  
HELP.













I DON'T HAVE  
TO BE A BIG GAME  
HUNTER TO HANDLE  
THAT LION.



TIMMA QUICKLY QUENCHED HIS THIRST AND THEN SET  
OUT FOR HIS CITY.



THE FOLLOWING MORNING HE WAS BACK IN THE  
FOREST HE HAD BROUGHT TWO MORE HOUNDS  
WITH HIM.



THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE  
TO SET THE TRAP...  
A TRAP OF MIRRORS!

TIMMA PLACED THE MIRRORS OPPOSITE EACH OTHER



HAH! NOW  
AM READY TO  
RECEIVE THE  
KING OF THE  
JUNGLE.



FEELING ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT, HE SAT DOWN AND BEGAN TO SING.

TARA  
LA...LA...  
-A.

SOON HE HAD COMPANY

YOUNG MAN, EVEN VETERAN  
GAME HUNTERS RUN AWAY  
WHEN THEY SEE ME.  
AREN'T YOU  
SCARED?

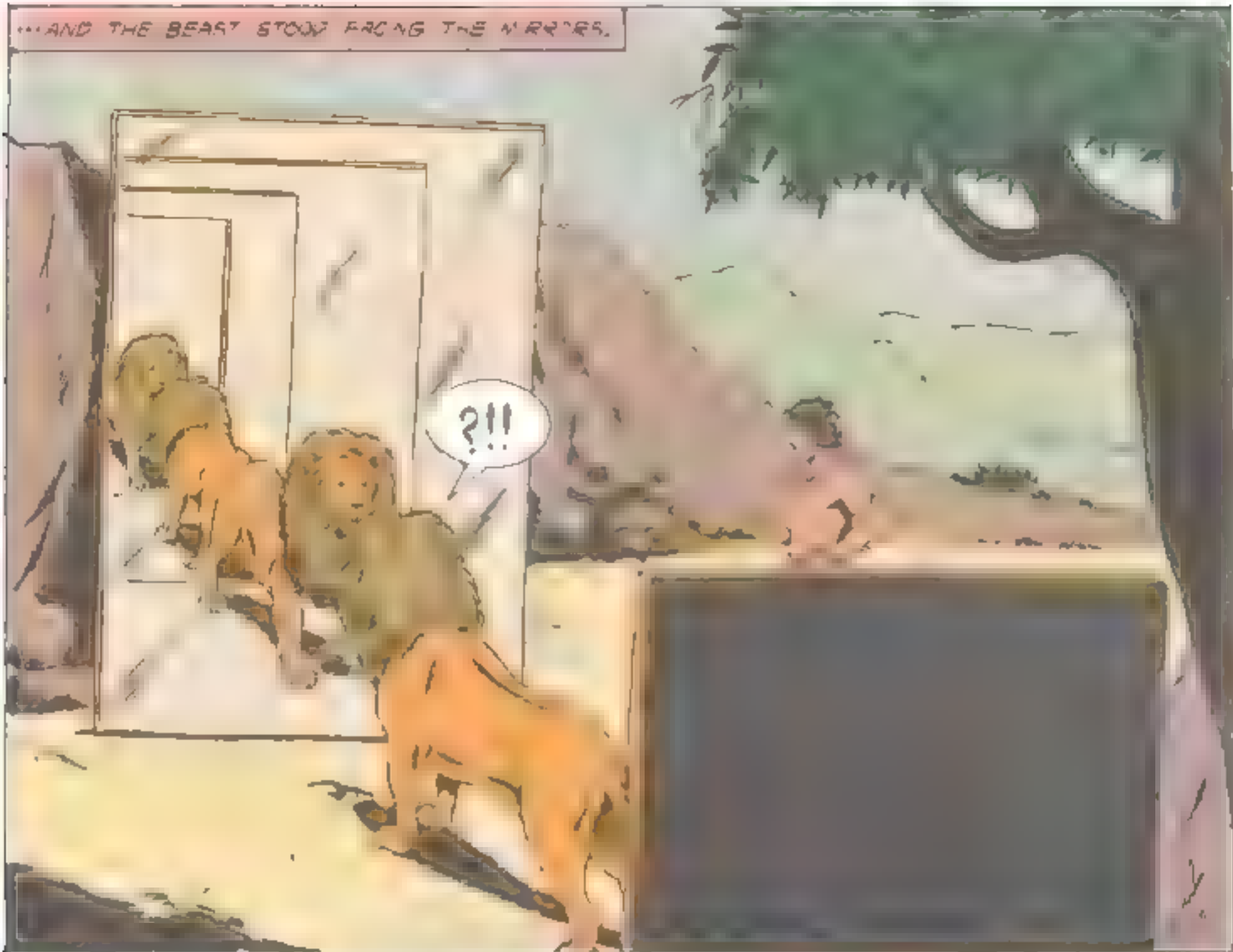
SCARED? WHO, ME? HAH!  
DO YOU KNOW TO  
WHOM YOU ARE  
TALKING?





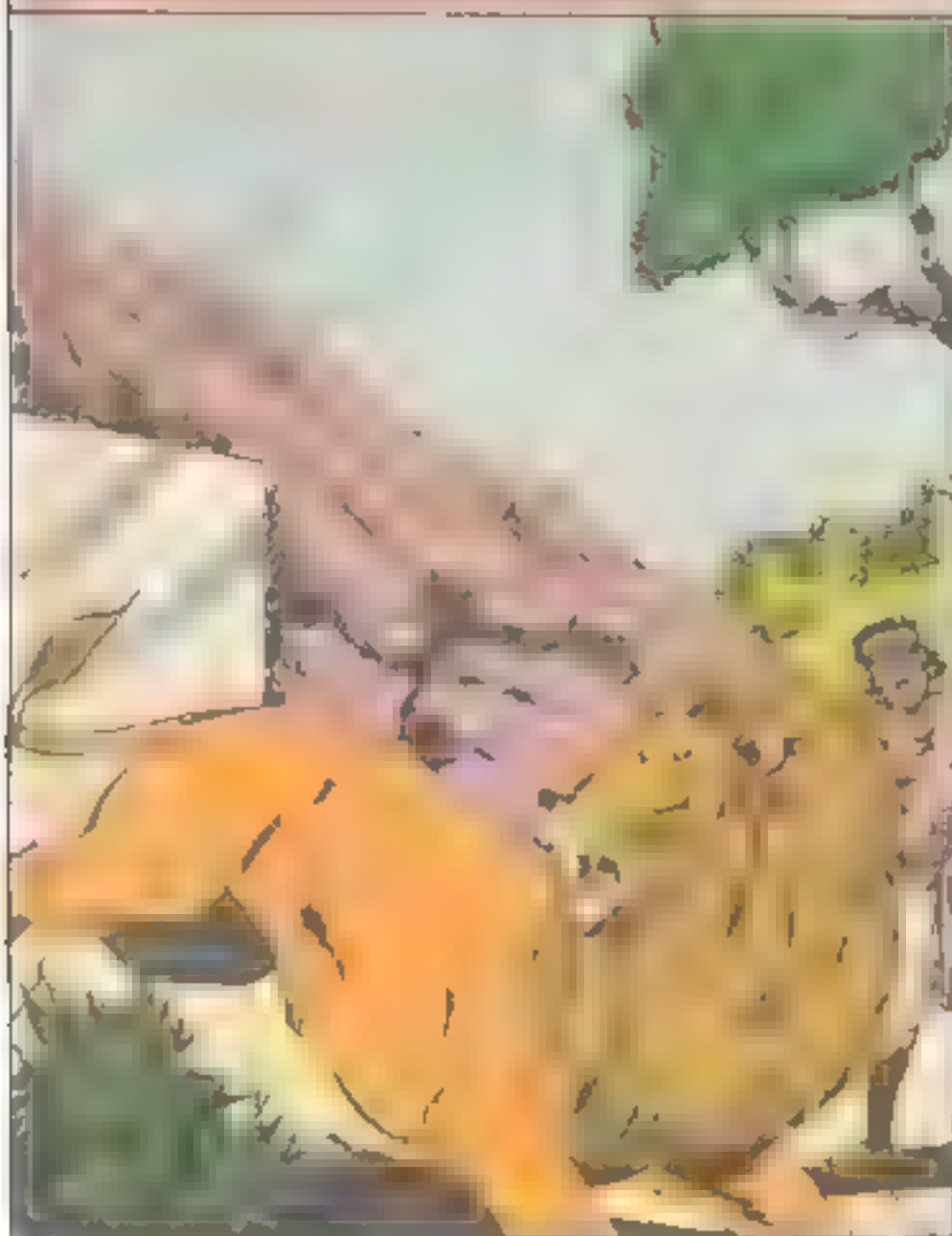


...AND THE BEAST STOOD FACING THE WARRIORS.





WITHOUT A MOMENT'S DELAY THE LION FLED.



LOOK! THE LION.

RUN!



EVEN AS THE ELEPHANTS MADE WAY, THE LION SPEEDED BY...





...AND DISAPPEARED.

NEVER AGAIN WILL  
HE BE SEEN IN  
THIS FOREST.

THANK YOU  
MY FRIEND, AND  
NOW I SHALL KEEP  
MY PART OF THE  
BARGAIN COME  
WITH ME.



THE KING ELEPHANT TOOK THEM TO A CAVE

LOOK,  
THOSE ARE THE  
SKELETONS OF  
ELEPHANTS KILLED  
BY THE LION. YOU  
MAY TAKE ALL  
THE TUSKS



THE MAN TOOK THE TUSKS AND MADE BUNDLES

HOW SHALL  
I CARRY ALL  
THESE BUNDLES  
TO THE CITY?

MY  
ELEPHANTS  
WILL CARRY  
THEM FOR  
YOU



THE KING ELEPHANT LIFTED A BUNDLE WITH HIS  
TRUNK





AND PLACED IT ON THE BACK OF AN ELEPHANT



THUS TIMMA LEFT THE FOREST AT THE HEAD OF A CARAVAN OF ELEPHANTS LOADED WITH IVORY.



WHEN HE REACHED THE PALACE THE KING - MEN - CAME OUT TO RECEIVE HIM









THE PARROT MUST BE  
MISSING ITS OLD  
MASTER.

BUT HOW  
ARE WE TO  
TRACE ITS OLD  
MASTER?

OUR TAMMA  
SHOULD KNOW,  
MAHARAJ.

THE MINISTERS SENT FOR TAMMA

THE KING  
WANTS YOU TO  
BRING THE OWNER  
OF OUR PARROT  
HERE.

DON'T  
KNOW WHO  
THE OWNER IS.  
CAUGHT IN  
THE FOREST

THE KING IS NOT INTERESTED  
IN EXCUSES. HE WANTS  
RESULTS.

BUT...

IF YOU DON'T BRING  
THE OWNER HERE  
WITHIN FOUR WEEKS,  
YOUR HEAD WILL  
BE CUT OFF.



TIMMA WENT TO HIS OLD FRIEND IN THE FOREST

THE KING HAS ORDERED ME TO FIND THE OWNER OF THE PARROT CAN YOU HELP ME?

WELL FOLLOW ME

TIMMA FOLLOWED THE BIRD.

IT LED HIM TO A TEMPLE WHERE THERE STOOD A MECHANICAL HORSE.

MOUNT THIS HORSE AND FLY WESTWARDS WHEN YOU FLY OVER THE SEA YOU WILL COME ACROSS AN ISLAND

HE SAID

THAT THE BIRD WAS HIS FRIEND

TIMMA MOUNTED THE HORSE AND TURNED THE KEY

THE NEXT MINUTE HE WAS UP IN THE AIR

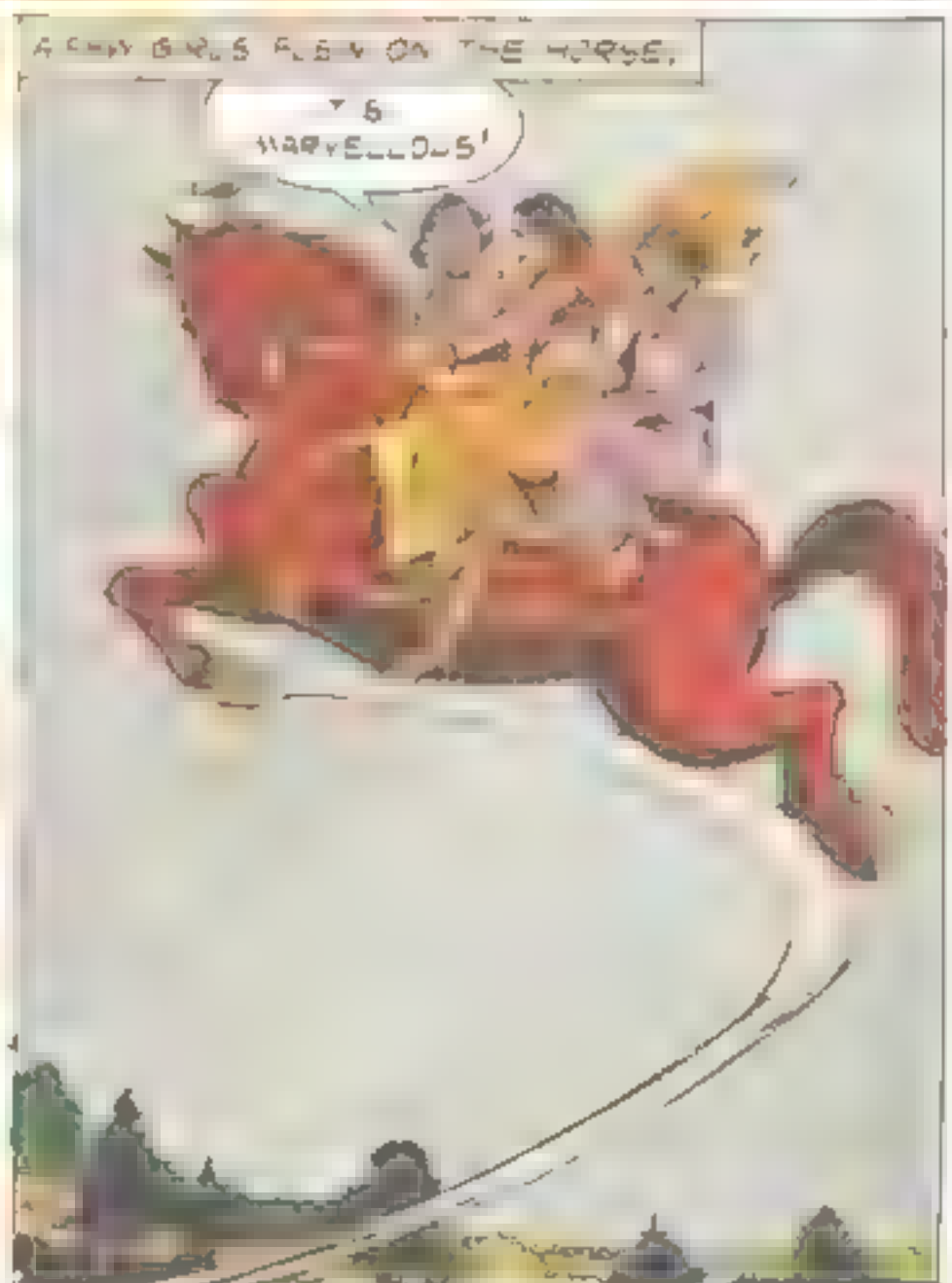
GOOD LUCK, MY FRIEND.







TIMYA LANDED IN THE ROYAL GARDEN. THE FRIENDS OF THE PRINCESS RAN TOWARDS HIM.





THEN CAME THE PRINCESS

I TOO  
WOULD LIKE  
TO FLY.

SO TAMRA TOOK OFF WITH THE PRINCESS...

AND FLEW HOMEWARDS

WHERE ARE  
YOU TAKING ME,  
YOUNG HAYD

TO SOMEONE  
YOU'D LOVE TO  
MEET.



AS THEY NEARED THE TOWER OF VRY,  
THE PARROT BEGAN TO SING.



IT'S MY  
PARROT!

THE KING HEARD THE NEWS AND CAME TO  
THE TOWER.



MEET  
THE OWNER  
OF THE PARROT,  
MANARAJ.

THE KING MARRIED THE PRINCESS AND  
APPOINTED MYA COMMANDER OF THE  
ARMY.



MY  
PLAN HAS  
MISFIRE  
AGAIN.

A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE PRINCESS FELL ILL. NO PHYSICIAN COULD CURE HER.

I'M SORRY, MAHARAJ. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.

THERE MUST BE SOMEONE WHO CAN CURE HER.



YOU MUST SEND FOR A PHYSICIAN FROM THE LAND OF OUR QUEEN, MAHARAJ.

AGREE, MAHARAJ, WE COULD SEND OUR COMMANDER TO THE ISLAND.



I'M SURE THE PEOPLE OF THE ISLAND WILL BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE MAN WHO KIDNAPPED THEIR PRINCESS. TIMMA WON'T RETURN ALIVE.



THEN THE QUEEN SPOKE

THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON WHO KNOWS THE REMEDY AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO END HER.







WE WILL, MY  
QUEEN. WHO  
IS SHE?

SHE WAS MY  
CLOSE COMPANION.  
ONCE, IN A FIT OF TEMPER,  
TURNED HER INTO A PARROT  
NO ONE CAN FIND HER  
NOW.



YES. CALL  
HIM.

BUT, MAHARAJA, I AM SURE  
OUR COMMANDER WILL  
BE ABLE TO FIND  
HER.



THUS TIMMA FOUND HIMSELF IN THE FOREST ONCE  
AGAIN.

YOU  
LOOK WORRIED,  
MY FRIEND. IS  
IT ANOTHER  
PROBLEM?

EVEN  
YOU CANNOT  
HELP ME THIS  
TIME

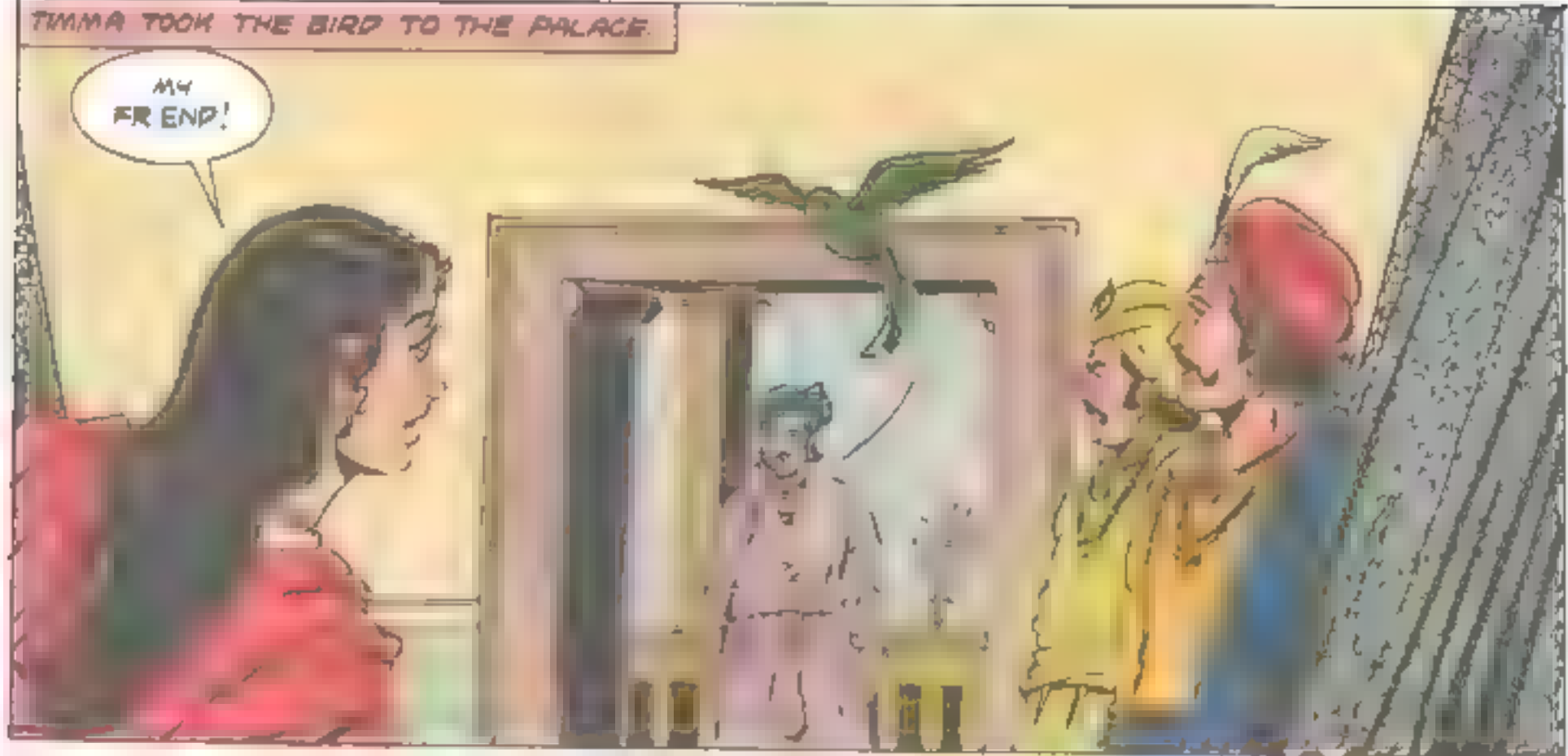


WHEN TIMMA TOLD THE BIRD ALL ABOUT  
THE QUEEN'S ALIMENT—

TAKE ME TO YOUR QUEEN  
AND LEAVE THE REST  
TO ME.

TIMMA TOOK THE BIRD TO THE PALACE.

MY  
FRIEND!



THE MOMENT THE QUEEN TOUCHED THE BIRD...



...IT TURNED INTO A BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

PARDON  
ME FOR TURNING  
YOU INTO A  
PARROT.



THE QUEEN WAS CURED; HER LONG-LOST COMPANION  
MARRIED TIMMA WHOM THE KING APPOINTED AS HIS  
MINISTER, AND THE ENVOUS MINISTER LEFT THE  
CITY FOR EVER







Your  
bubble  
of  
happiness!

**NO. 007** Bubble gum



THE NATIONAL PRIORITY

Tutti i colori della natura  
 si uniscono in armonia  
 Tutti i colori della natura  
 si uniscono in armonia



Così è minuzioso! Così è Gentile!

C. M. M. M. M.

Anzitutto, perché non Cabbano Genné!



VALMIKI'S RAMAYANA IS BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST POETIC WORK WRITTEN IN SANSKRIT; IT IS, THEREFORE, REFERRED TO AS THE ADIKAVYA. IT IS SAID THAT BRAHMA ASSURED VALMIKI THAT "AS LONG AS THE MOUNTAINS STAND AND THE RIVERS FLOW, SO LONG SHALL THE RAMAYANA BE READ BY MEN."

THE IMMORTAL EPIC  
OF VALMIKI NOW IN THE  
AMAR CHITRA KATHA SERIES



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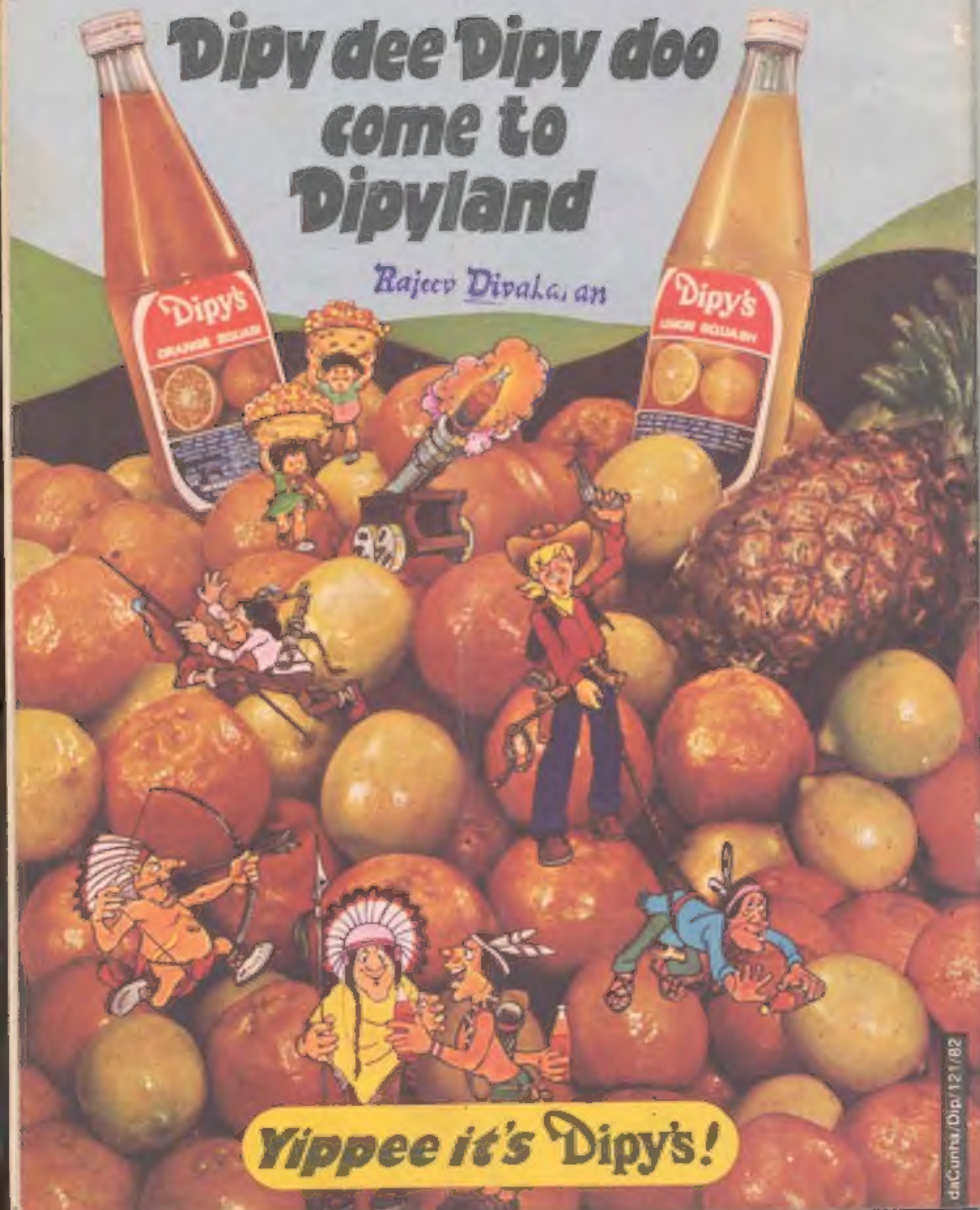
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# **Dipy dee Dipy doo come to Dipyland**

*Rajeev Divakaran*



**Yippee it's Dipy's!**